FACULTY OF MUSIC UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Gary Kulesha, conductor

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Thursday, November, 21, 1991

at 8:00 pm

Walter Hall

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PROGRAMME

Gary Kulesha conductor

Capriccio — Jacques Ibert

Four Studies — Stephen Clarke

Hymnus I - Hymnus III - Hymnus IV — Alfred Schnittke
Jeremy Findlay, cello

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Nocturne and Toccata for Piano and Percussion — Gary Kulesha

Four Instruments — Morton Feldman
Chris Paul Harman, cello

Hear Me Out — R. Murray Schafer
Shira Gilbert, soprano; Hilary Knox, soprano
Mark McCallen, baritone; David de Jong, baritone

Cinque Frammenti di Saffo — Luigi Dallapiccola
Barbara Hannigan, soprano

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PROGRAMME NOTES

Capriccio — **Jacques Ibert**

Ibert was born in Paris in 1890, and died there in 1962. His *Capriccio* for ten instruments was written in 1938. The work is typical both of Ibert's work, and of the French music being written in the 1930's. It is both rhythmic and atmospheric, and is quite an attractive work.

Four Studies — **Stephen Clarke**

Stephen Clarke is a composition student at the University of Toronto, where he is currently working with Walter Buczynski. He is also the pianist for the Contemporary Music Ensemble. The *Four Studies* are brief contrasting movements. The first and third are active and densely textured, and the second and fourth are slower and evocative.

Hymnus I - Hymnus III - Hymnus IV — **Alfred Schnittke**

These extraordinary pieces were written between 1977 and 1980. They call for an unusual ensemble, and for great virtuosity in the parts for the solo cello, the double bass, and the timpani. They reflect Schnittke's interest in ancient Russian Orthodox church music.

Nocturne and Toccata for Piano and Percussion — **Gary Kulesha**

I wrote this work in 1980 for myself and the Toronto Percussion Ensemble. The work is in two parts, a slow and atmospheric n*octurne,* and a driving t*occata.* The *toccata* reflects my interest in both popular music and African drumming. The middle section features the African double bell, and the talking drum.

Four Instruments — **Morton Feldman**

Feldman once told a student: "Perhaps we should all be writing clavichord music, so quiet that people would actually have to work at listening." This piece reflects his preoccupation with compression and dynamics at the threshold of audibility. It literally makes a canvas out of silence, and then splashes subdued hues sparsely across it.

Hear Me Out — **R. Murray Schafer**

This work is part of Schafer's ongoing Patria series of pieces which combine theatre with music. The "subtext" seems to be a commentary on politicians, a favourite target for Murray.

Cinque Frammenti di Saffo **Luigi Dallapiccola**

Dallapiccola lived from 1904 to 1975. He was a serialist, but never imitated the Schoenberg approach slavishly. His approach was tempered by his Italian temperament, and is very personal. The work is the first in his series of "Liriche Greche," and was composed in 1942.

Notes by Gary Kulesha

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TONIGHT'S CONDUCTOR

Although principally a composer, **GARY KULESHA** is active as both a pianist and a conductor, and has appeared in both roles in premieres of new works by several composers, as well as in standard repertoire. After leaving a position as a producer for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in 1977, he went on to do on-air work for them. His articles and reviews have appeared in various publications in Canada.

For four years, he was principal conductor of the Canadian Contemporary Music Workshops. In 1987, he was appointed Artistic Director. He has guest conducted with several ensembles, including the Composers' Brass, Arraymusic, the Stratford Festival Chamber Ensemble, the Toronto Chamber Winds, the Toronto Percussion Ensemble, the Canadian Chamber Ensemble, the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra, the Windsor Symphony, the National Arts Centre Orchestra and the Associates of the Toronto Symphony, and has conducted several times in broadcasts for CBC radio.

In 1988, he was appointed Composer In Residence with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra by the Canada Council. In 1986, he was named Composer of the Year by the Performing Rights Organization of Canada; he is the youngest composer ever to be so honoured. In 1990, the *Third Chamber Concerto* was nominated for a Juno Award as Best Classical Composition released on disc in 1988-89. In the summer of 1990, he was the first composer ever appointed to the position of Composr In Residence with the Festival of the Sound in Parry Sound, Ontario. In the 1990-91 season, Mr. Kulesha guest-conducted at the National Arts Centre, Kitchener-Waterloo, and Windsor Symphony Orchestras. Upcoming composition projects include works for the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra, the Rembrant Trio, and concerted works with orchestra for recorder virtuoso Michala Petri and violist Rivka Golani.

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CONTEMPORARY MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Stephen Clarke, piano & celeste
Karen Graves, viola
Rachel Klaassen, flute & piccolo
Jaye Marsh, flute
Richard Moore, percussion
Heidi Postl, oboe
Jon Saulnier, percussion

ASSISTING THE CONTEMPORARY MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Christoper Berti, double bass
Matthew Burditt, trumpet
Colleen Cook, clarinet
Debbie Diamond, violin
Curtis Dietz, trumpet
Darcy McFadyen, horn
Mary-Katherine Finch, cello
Sigal Hechlinger, clarinet
Agnes Lee, harp
Don Lyons, viola
Dan Restivo, bassoon
Ryan Scott, percussion
Linda Switt, bass clarinet & clarinet
Hsiao-Ling Tsai, clarinet

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Next Contemporary Music Ensemble Concert
Friday, February 28, 1992 at 8:00 pm

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UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE FACULTY OF MUSIC

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Wednesday, November 27, 1991 at 8:00 pm
FACULTY RECITAL
Norbert Kraft, guitar

Walter Hall- Admission $ 10/5 Students/Seniors

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Saturday, December 7, 1991 at 8:00 pm
JAZZ ENSEMBLES
Paul Read, director
Phil Nimmons, director emeritus

MacMillan Theatre - Admission $ 8/5 Students/Seniors

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